

Life Member Activities in Region 8 Porto, September 24/25th, 2016

**A report from Charles Turner
Region 8 Life Member Co-ordinator**

Life **M**ember **A**ffinity **G**roups in Region 8

- There are currently 12 LMAGs:
- Benelux (137), Croatia (20), France (88), Germany (194), Greece (25), Hungary (15), Israel (125), Italy (134), Slovenia (14), Spain (60), Switzerland (179), and UK and Ireland (275)

- Several other Sections have sufficient Life members to justify the creation of a viable LMAG:
- Austria (28), Denmark (37), Egypt (42), Finland (33), Norway (37), and Sweden (92).

How easy is it to form an LMAG?

- You will need to file a petition signed by at least 6 members (not necessarily LMs)
- Plan of proposed activities for the initial phase of the LMAG
- Evidence of support within the Section for Life member activities

- In addition there are other Sections that are close to the threshold of forming a viable LMAG:
- Poland (19), South Africa (14), and Turkey (16)
- These numbers can be easily expanded by the inclusion of other members not yet qualified to become LMs.

Do we do enough for our older members?

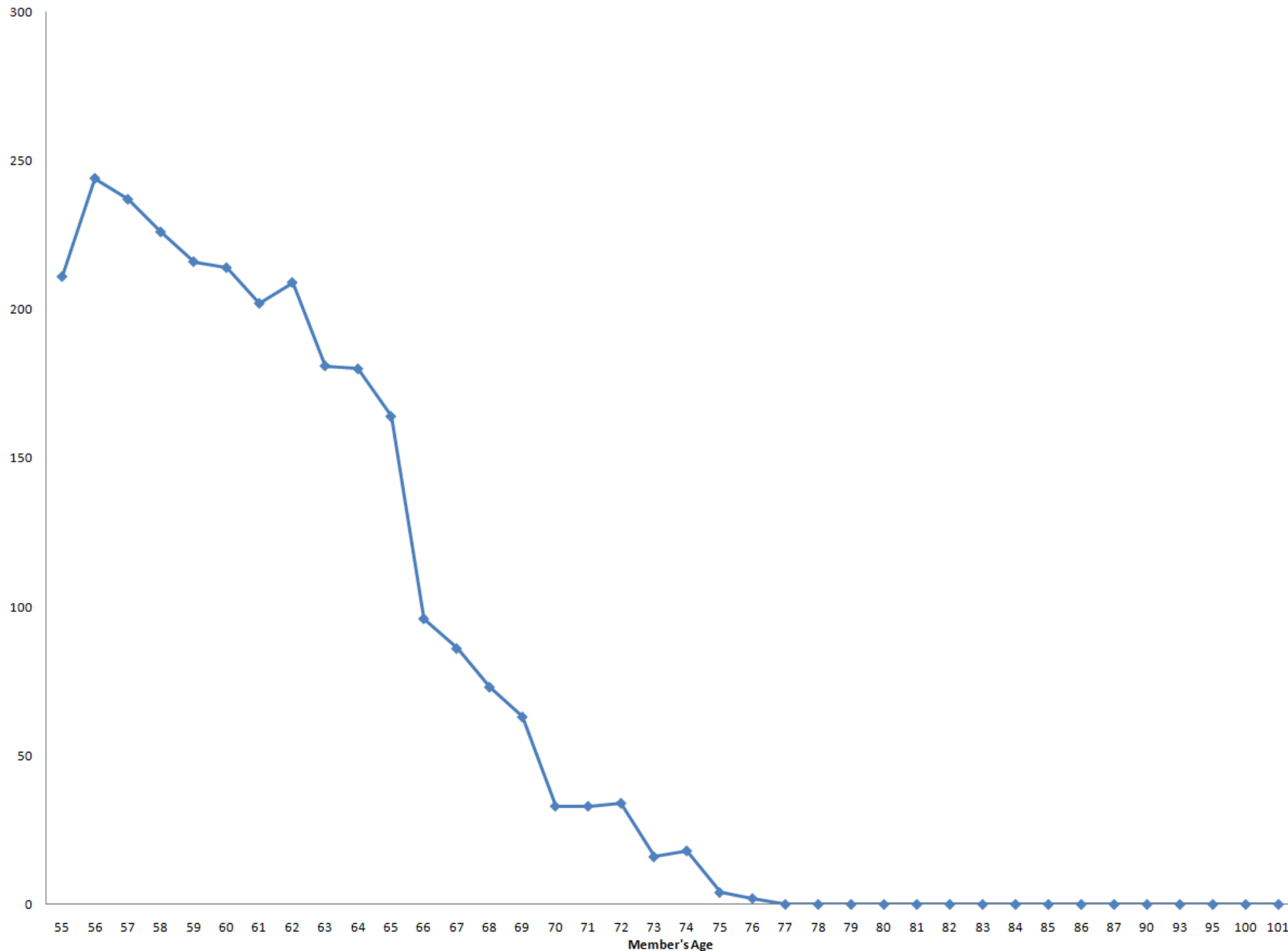
- Sections and Chapters need to review whether they are responding to the needs of all members, especially older/retired members
- Our policy in Region 8 is to encourage all older members (e.g. those over 60 or who have been members for 30 years) to take part in LMAG activities

Age profile data for Region 8

Data provided by MGA show that there is a dramatic fall in the number of members as retirement is reached

Number of members with more
than 25 years of membership

Age Profile Data for IEEE Region 8



Why do we lose so many members as they approach retirement?

- 1. Job function has changed**
- 2. IEEE does not appear to offer 'value for money' to older/retired members**
- 3. Only Life members have dues waived**
- 4. Section/Chapter does not organise activities of interest to older/retired members**

How to retain older members?

Sections need to find out what kind of activities attract older members, such as:

Technical refreshing and updating workshops

Mentoring of younger members and students

History interests such as Milestones

Why not sponsor social events to enable interaction to continue between members?

Think about creating volunteer roles for older members, to share the burden carried by younger colleagues

Advantages to Sections of forming LMAGs

- 1) Rebates and grants are available to fund activities
- 2) LMAGs are the 'voice' and can coordinate activities for all older members
- 3) They receive support from the IEEE Life Members Committee

What about members who have retired or are about to retire?

- The qualifying criteria for Life membership are difficult to achieve in the younger Sections in Region 8, namely:
- Members must be 65 or older,
- The sum of age and years of membership must be at least 100.
- Rate of conversion to LM status is low in R8

Action!

- The answer is to include retired (and near-retirement) members in Life member activities.
- In many Sections this would boost the number of active members and volunteers to the point where an LMAG becomes viable
- The age of members is readily deduced from MGA/SAMIEEE data

Conclusion

- **The older members in your Section represent a valuable volunteer resource: they would welcome being able to attend social functions**
- **Don't neglect them: invite them to participate in your LMAG activities**

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